



Operation Toy Drop
Pope personnel work with Army and international units to bring joy to thousands of children.
— Page 10



CAROLINA FLYER

Promotions
Pope's newest Major selects are announced
— Page 4



Vol. 11, No. 50 Pope Air Force Base, N.C. • public.pope.amc.af.mil Friday, Dec. 14, 2007

Heroes Past & Present

Past: Iwo Jima vet speaks to 2nd Airlift Squadron



If you have questions/comments about this program at Pope, e-mail thatguy@pope.af.mil

Up Next

Angel Tree

Angel Tree ornaments are available at the chapel with donations due Monday.

Chapel Holiday Events

A Christmas Concert is Dec. 24 at 11:30 p.m. at the chapel followed by Midnight Christmas Mass and Christmas Day Mass at 10 a.m. New Year's Day Mass is at 10 a.m.

Protestant Services will have a Pie and Ice Cream Social and a Candle Light Service Dec. 24 starting at 5:15 p.m. Lutheran Services will hold a candle light service at Smoke Bomb Hill Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

Weekly services will continue at their regular times.

Pope Wing Run

The Pope wing run is today at 3 p.m. The formation run starts at Woodland Park and has a holiday theme. For information, call 1st Lt. Joe Hudson at 394-5289.

Correction

The Dec. 7 issue of the Carolina Flyer incorrectly identified Capt. Jason Jaeger on page 9 as a member of the 41st Aerial Port Squadron. He is a member of the 2nd Airlift Squadron. For AFCOMAP information, contact 1st Lt. Navondi Hooker at 394-9742.

DUI tracker

DUI tracking began Oct. 1, 2006, and is current as of Wednesday.

Days since last DUI	5
2007	29
DUIs for 2006	30



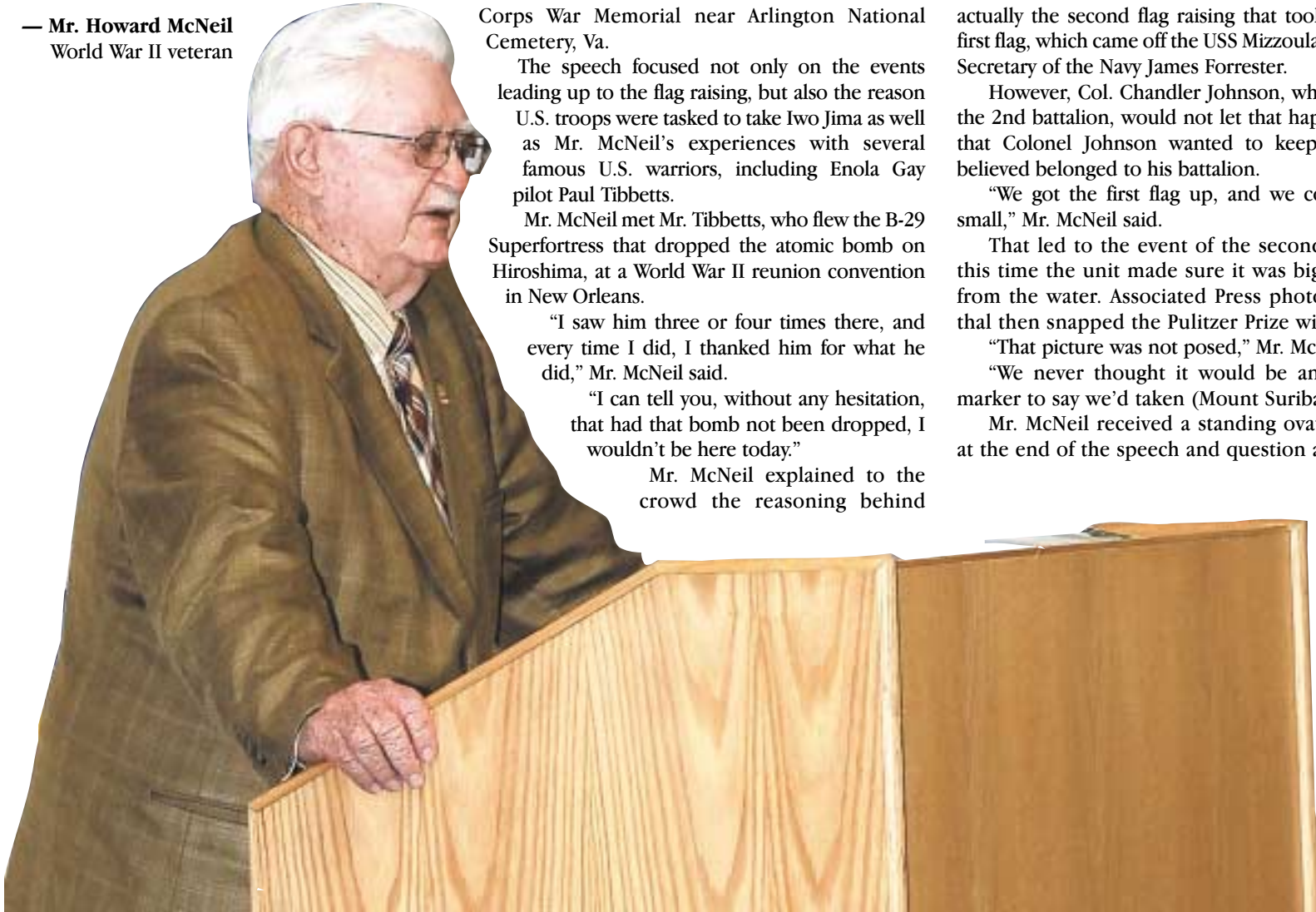
AADD Saves
This week 10
This year 511

For a free, anonymous ride home 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. Friday to Monday, call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 394-AADD.

By 2nd Lt. Chris Hoyler
Editor

“All it meant to us at the time was that we had taken the hill (Mount Suribachi).”

— Mr. Howard McNeil
World War II veteran



Hector McNeil speaks to members of Pope leadership and 2nd AS Airmen during the “Heroes Past and Present” event during Wingman Day Dec. 7. Mr. McNeil fought at Iwo Jima with the 5th Marine Division.

PHOTOS: LORNA SANCHEZ

Present: Wong receives Bronze Star

By 2nd Lt. Chris Hoyler
Editor

Senior Master Sgt. Sean Wong, 2nd Airlift Squadron loadmaster superintendent, was awarded the Bronze Star medal Dec. 7 for his work in training the Iraqi Air Forces on the C-130 aircraft during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

Sergeant Wong received the Bronze Star for exceptionally meritorious achievement as a combat aviation advisor and C-130E standardization and evaluation loadmaster.

“It’s special to have a living, breathing example of the warrior spirit in our squadron,” Lt. Col. Walter Ward, 2nd AS commander, said. “You can talk about service before self, but there is a difference between telling and showing, and Sean is an example of this.”

Sergeant Wang told his story to Pope’s leadership and his fellow 2nd AS members, relaying his experiences from the beginning of training at Hurlburt Field, Fla. to the completion of the mission, which yielded a 27 percent increase in Iraqi loadmasters.

He said there were a lot of unknowns going into the beginning of training, and that even though the majority of the 45 Iraqis in the operations squadron had varying degrees of training under their belt, they still leaned on the U.S. instructors for help too much.

“Our focus was kind of tough love,” Sergeant Wong said. “That was our theme throughout the year.

“They needed to know that we were there at the time, but we were not always going to be there. We stood our ground and leadership supported us.”

The training process led to the Iraqi air force’s 23rd Squadron flying more than 700 combat sorties and logging 912 mishap-free hours. In that time, they carried 8,160 passengers and 480,000 pounds of cargo.

The results also yielded diplomatic success, as the unit launched flights inside of Iraq and to surrounding countries with key dignitaries to include the Iraqi President, Vice President and Prime Minister.

“We took what would be an Air Force base, on a smaller scale, and led it on a mission,” Sergeant Wong said.

He said personnel of the 23rd Squadron were very different from a typical U.S. Air Force unit and there were many barriers beyond the obvious cultural and language differences.

One of those barriers was training both officer and enlisted personnel for similar jobs.

“We had to show them that our goal was to teach, regardless of rank,” Sergeant Wong said.

Another was trying to be a leader through personal issues unfamiliar to the U.S. Armed Forces culture, such as one of the Iraqi soldiers having two wives.

“Sometimes it got interesting,” Sergeant Wong said.

The makeup of the unit was interesting as well. The oldest Iraqi loadmaster was 57, an Iraq-Iran War veteran and a grandfather of three.

But despite the differences of the trainers and trainees, Sergeant Wong said, the U.S. soldiers were treated “like family” the entire time.

“There was a bond there,” he said.

That bond was essential to completing the training mission, and Sgt.

the invasion of Iwo Jima, and said they were told upon landing that they would be back on their ship within 72 hours. They ended up staying for 34 days and fighting a battle that yielded 29 Medal of Honor recipients.

The story of the flag raising is not a glamorous one, according to Mr. McNeil. Nobody knew at the time that the five members of the 28th Marines and one Navy corpsman would go on to become world-renowned celebrities.

“All it meant to us at the time was we had taken the hill (Mount Suribachi),” Mr. McNeil said.

He said a little known fact about the event is that it was actually the second flag raising that took place that day. The first flag, which came off the USS Mizzoula, was coveted by then Secretary of the Navy James Forrester.

However, Col. Chandler Johnson, who was commander of the 2nd battalion, would not let that happen. Mr. McNeil said that Colonel Johnson wanted to keep the flag, which he believed belonged to his battalion.

“We got the first flag up, and we couldn’t see it, it was small,” Mr. McNeil said.

That led to the event of the second flag going up, and this time the unit made sure it was big enough to be seen from the water. Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal then snapped the Pulitzer Prize winning photo.

“That picture was not posed,” Mr. McNeil said.

“We never thought it would be anything more than a marker to say we’d taken (Mount Suribachi).”

Mr. McNeil received a standing ovation from the crowd at the end of the speech and question and answer session.



Senior Master Sgt. Sean Wong has the Bronze Star placed on his service jacket by his wife, Marcy, during the “Heroes Past and Present” event Dec. 7. Sergeant Wong received the Bronze Star for exceptional meritorious achievement to the United States as a Combat Aviation Advisor and C-130 Standardization and Evaluation Loadmaster during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

Wong had a big part in that not only as a flight instructor, but also in building and executing a squadron performance report and tracking system.

Coalition forces also qualified an Iraqi instructor and an evaluator for the C-130.

“The evaluator was important, because before that only U.S. soldiers

were evaluating,” he said.

Sergeant Wong completed his speech with a video documenting the deployment, a presentation that showed just how close the trainers and trainees became.

“I gained a lot of friendships out of it,” Sergeant Wong said. “It was very rewarding.”

Use This Year's Lessons To Help Next Year

By Col. Timothy Zadalis
43rd Airlift Wing Commander

Another great year has come to an end for Team Pope. We stepped up to our “People, Mission, Motivation” motto and proved why we are the best. So as we approach the end of the year, we need to step back and reflect on our tremendous accomplishments!

What sets Pope AFB apart is its people. Each of you steps up daily and makes a difference. Whether at home or deployed, the reputation of Pope warfighters is legendary. All five major commands that call Pope AFB home, each with their unique warfighting mission, face their own challenges as the BRAC timeline progresses. Yet none of us has let the BRAC transition stand in the way of putting combat power in the hands of Combatant Commanders. From C-130 and A-10 sorties, to convoy drivers, gunners, and Combat Controllers calling in strikes, each of you has placed “Service before self.” And when you’re not deployed, your commitment to “Excellence in all we do” has proven the old “No Hope Pope” label no longer applies. We take care of our families and Wingmen, and have a little fun doing it! And when it comes to motivation, everything we do is over the top!

When I look back at 2007, I see many successes beginning with the Wing earning an “Excellent” rating on the **Air Mobility Command Unit Compliance Inspection**. We welcomed a new war fighting partner – the Air Force Reserve’s **440th Airlift Wing**. We stood down Air Combat Command’s **23rd Fighter Group**, who has been flying their Warthogs at Pope for 15 years. We rallied from behind to win the AMC Matchup competition, privatized our housing, and garnered countless awards. We stood in formation with the Air Force Honor Guard at Arlington National Cemetery as we said a final goodbye to **Lt. Col. Jay Zeamer**, our **43rd Airlift Wing Medal of Honor recipient**. We put together the largest airshow ever and wowed 240,000 visitors! Our night airshow and 1940s Hangar Dance brought our proud heritage alive. Who will ever forget the Aeroshell Acrobatic Team performing in formation as the sun set! A week later, we hosted more than 1,200 civic leaders from across North Carolina and the League of Municipalities.

And did we have fun this year! I will never forget the superheroes who raised over \$10,000 for the Air Force Assistance Fund in a 24-hour endurance run. How about the white-top with the Giant Voice installed so that I could



SENIOR AIRMAN CLAY LANCASTER

Col. Timothy Zadalis, 43rd Airlift Wing Commander, talks to an Airman while riding on one of Pope's C-130's during Operation Toy Drop Saturday. The event helped support the military and local community, collecting more than 1,400 toys for deserving families in the Fayetteville area. See pages 10 and 11 for more coverage of Operation Toy Drop.

try to win the Loud Stereo Contest—KC and the Sunshine Band never sounded so good. Remember the Wing Runway 5K in the fog, Pope Floats, Military Family Appreciation Week, Goofy Golf, and the Halo 3 tournament—there are so many more memorable events I could mention.

While it has been a great year, it has not been without

losses, both at home and on the battlefield. I ask each of you to pause and remember those who are no longer with us and their families, and vow that in 2008, we will return safe and sound.

As the year ends, Carol and I would like to wish everyone at Team Pope happy holidays, and we want each of you to know that there is no finer Wing or

installation in the Air Force to command. My best memory of 2007 is sitting back and watching you SOAR!

Always remember, we want everyone to stay safe through the holidays so we can make the New Year an even bigger and better one, so be **SAFE**, watch out for your **WINGMAN**, and never be **THAT GUY!**

Commander's Helpline

394-HELP (4357)
commanders.helpline@pope.af.mil

The Commander's Helpline is your direct link to Col. Timothy Zadalis, 43rd Airlift Wing Commander.

If you have worked through normal channels and aren't satisfied, Helplines are an opportunity to ask questions, compliment someone or make suggestions. You must include a name and phone number for a response.

Helplines of general interest will be published in the Carolina Flyer, others will be answered by letter or phone call.

Remember, the most efficient way to solve a problem is to talk directly to the responsible office or follow your chain of command.

You can call the Commander's Helpline at 394-4357 or e-mail to commanders.helpline@pope.af.mil.

Helpful numbers

Pope Clinic394-4258
Pass and Registration . .394-2694
Security Forces394-2800
Legal Office394-2341
Chapel394-2677
Military
Personnel Flight394-2276
Pope Club, collocated497-4031
TRICARE
Customer Service .1-877-TRI-CARE
Civil Engineers394-2821
Inspector General394-2302
Family Support
Center394-2538
Child Development
Center394-4323
Kitty Hawk Inn
Dining Facility394-4377
Housing Management .394-4867
Bowling Center394-2891
Fitness Center394-2671
Finance (Military Pay) .394-4628
AAFES Shoppette497-8181
Public Affairs394-4183

Maintenance Chief Says Thanks, Looks Ahead To Coming New Year

By Chief Master Sgt.
William Houston
43rd Maintenance Squadron

No matter what your religious beliefs are or what holiday you celebrate, this is the time of year most of us count all of our blessings. It's also a chance to reflect on the past 12 months and to think about what the coming year will bring.

The new year certainly promises to be a time of challenge and opportunity for many of us, both personally and professionally.

Within my own organization, the next several months will be an incredible period of change due to our impending association with the 440th Maintenance Group. All of our aircraft will transfer or retire as incoming Air Force Reserve Command aircraft replace them.

Hundreds of C-130 maintainers will change duty station, retire or separate after their enlistments. Most will be gone by next summer. A handful will remain behind to be a part of the base's future AFRC structure.

The challenge for those folks will be to remain

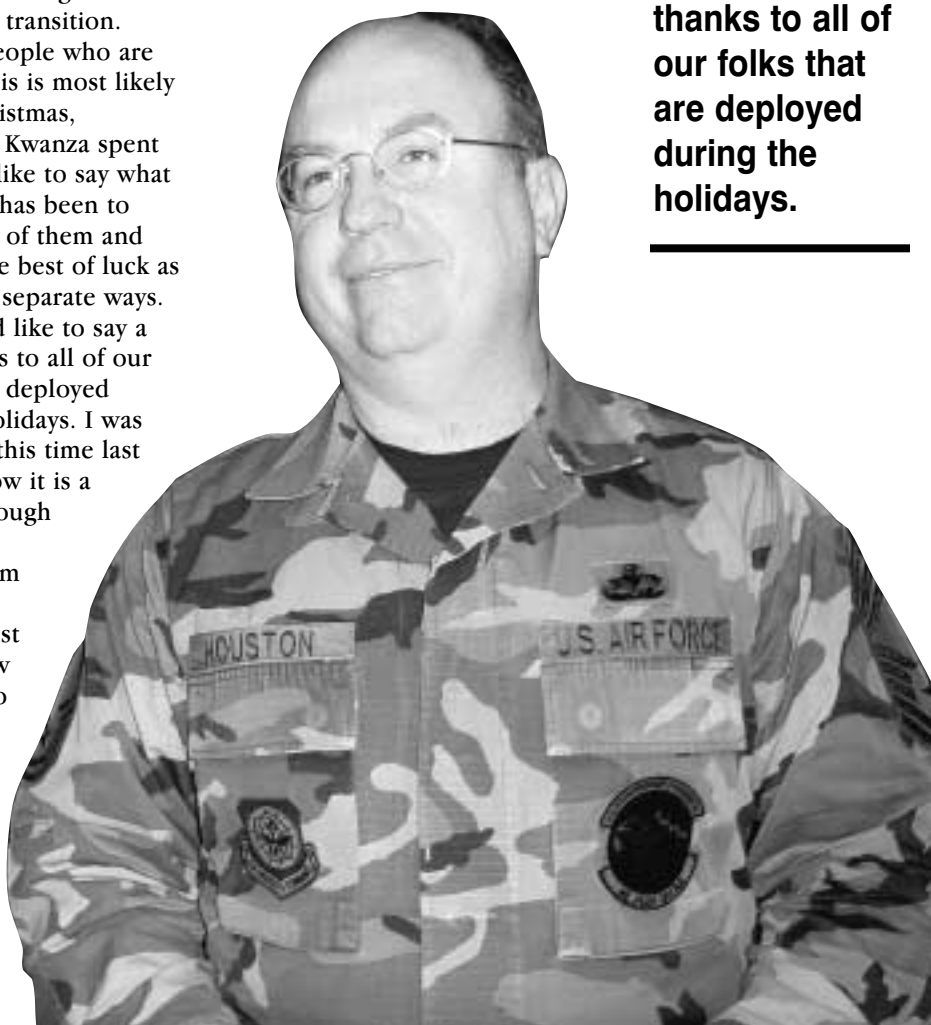
focused on our daily business as we build a new team with our reserve partners.

We'll have many opportunities to learn from this unique relationship, and our new friends are eager to complete the transition.

For the people who are leaving us, this is most likely their last Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanza spent at Pope. I'd like to say what a privilege it has been to work with all of them and wish them the best of luck as they go their separate ways.

Finally, I'd like to say a special thanks to all of our folks that are deployed during the holidays. I was away during this time last year, so I know it is a particularly tough time to be separated from family and friends. Almost all of us know someone who is away from home. Take a moment and send them an e-mail or a card. Let them know you are thinking

about them. They will really appreciate it — I know I did. Happy Holidays.



I'd like to say a special thanks to all of our folks that are deployed during the holidays.

Wingman of the Week



STAFF SGT. JON LADUE

Airman 1st Class Stephanie Furnari, 43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, creates an office equipment document which allows customers to sign for equipment.

**Airman 1st Class Stephanie Furnari
43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron**

Job description: As a customer service technician, Airman Furnari is responsible for assisting customers with supply support, ordering base supply items and also monitoring bench-stock.

Date entered military: June 2007

What is the reason you entered the military: To learn discipline, gain experience and to serve my country.

Most influential in career: Tech. Sgt. Robert Ferguson, 43rd LRS.

Short-term goals: To become more efficient at my job.

Long-term goals: To become a cosmetologist.

Best thing about Pope, and why: The facilities and the people I have met here and the job opportunities.

If you could change one thing about Pope, what would it be, and why: I would have more entertainment for those of us who live in the dorms and more activities for the night scene on Pope. I would also add an indoor pool to the base.

FLYER

PERSPECTIVE



THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Thank you for the difference you make every day, defending the United States of America and promoting our interests and ideals around the world. As the holiday season approaches, we encourage you to make a special effort to make a difference in the lives of those immediately around you. Many of you will travel to your hometowns across the country. Others will spend the holidays deployed in defense of freedom or at a critical duty station at your home base. Wherever you spend the holidays, we encourage you to make a difference.

Make a difference as a Wingman. Each year the Air Force experiences at least three fatal mishaps over the holiday period. This year, let's make a difference by dropping that number to zero. We need each commander, supervisor, and Airman to get personally involved. Know the holiday travel plans of your Wingmen. Check each other, and if travel plans don't pass the common sense test, adjust them. Apply personal risk management to all of your planned activities to better ensure you and your fellow Airmen return safely after the holidays.

Suicide remains a formidable enemy for our Air Force, taking more lives each year than direct enemy action. Unfortunately, the holiday season is not a joyous one for everyone. Recognize the signs of distress and take action to help your fellow Airmen in need. With proper planning and good wingmanship, we can ensure our safest holiday season ever.

Make a difference as an Ambassador. Every Airman is an ambassador to all we meet. This is true every day, but the holiday season provides many of us unique opportunities to relax and share our Air Force experiences back home. The American public overwhelmingly respects your service to the country and our Air Force. Your parents, friends, family, and teachers want to hear about your successes. We encourage you to be proud, tell the Air Force story, and brag a little!

Make a difference as an Airman. *Integrity, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do* are our guiding principles, the bedrock of the Airman's way of life. Directly linked to them is mutual respect - a care for one another that goes beyond the recognition of being on the same team. It's not just how we greet each other, but more importantly how we treat one another. As you share your Air Force experiences this holiday season, set the example by living our core values.

Over the course of this past year, we've traveled the globe, watching you in action. You are magnificent. We've seen you executing the mission while deployed, and we've seen you serving our combatant commanders from home station. You've been imaginative and innovative, finding better and more efficient ways for our Air Force to provide unmatched Air, Space, and Cyberspace power. Our Air Force family and mission depend on each and every one of you. Thanks again for your service and thanks for making a difference every day. Happy holidays!

Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

T. Michael Moseley
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

Happy Holidays to AMC Family



By General Arthur J. Lichte
Air Mobility Command
Commander

As we celebrate this holiday season, Chris and I extend our very best wishes to the Air Mobility Command

family. We are extremely proud of the dedication to service before self you so clearly display as you accomplish our nation's global air mobility mission. Because of you, the United States has the unprecedented ability to simultaneously confront tyranny and lend aid anywhere in the world. In the air and on the ground, AMC is at the center of the fight. Whether we are delivering fellow warfighters and their equipment to the front lines; providing life-saving aeromedical treatment and evacuation to wounded warriors; conducting air refueling to extend our nation's reach and power; delivering humanitarian aid to those in need; or providing vital combat support functions at dozens of locations around the world, the mobility team makes a positive difference by bringing peace and hope to millions of people every day. And to our spouses and family members, please know that the support you give your loved ones – especially through recurring months of separation – is the foundation of our success. Your love, strength and sacrifice enable our warriors to excel in the most demanding of conditions. Thank you for all you do to make AMC Airmen great. Have a safe and joyous holiday season and a wonderful New Year.



AIRMAN MINDY BLOEM

Annual card contest

Christmas cards from different squadrons on the base sit on display at the air park on Reilly Road. The winner of the card contest will be announced today during the Community Center's holiday social. Judging is based on overall design. First place will receive a \$300 gift certificate, second place will receive a \$200 certificate and third place will receive a \$100 gift certificate.

Pope talks By 2nd Lt. Chris Hoyler Editor

What do you want Santa to bring you for Christmas?



“Superman, Batman and Spiderman action figures.”
— Andrew White
Age 3



“A pogo stick.”
— Tanner Godfrey
Age 4



“A Barbie car.”
— Allana Brewer
Age 3



“Dora the Explorer.”
— Abagail Rhodes
Age 3

Major’s promotion list



The following individuals have been selected for promotion to the rank of major:

43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
Kathy Martin
Lewis Wilber

43rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Michael Campos

43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron
Edward Hogan

43rd Medical Operations Squadron
Teresa Mead Hughes

43rd Operations Group
Jens Lyndrup
Jason Strickler

43rd Operations Support Squadron
Stephen Cheek

43rd Security Forces Squadron
James Serra

2nd Airlift

Squadron

Ryan Grant
Christopher Hand
Jason Herring
Jason Jaeger
Anita Mack
Jason Sanderson

21st Special Tactics Squadron
William Roschewski

24th Special Tactics Squadron
Scott Olson

74th Fighter Squadron
Glenn Ott
Joseph Runci
Richard Waldrop

11th Intelligence Squadron
Alexis Hughes

621st Contingency Response Wing
Brian Beisheim
Timothy Feltis

Fayetteville State University AFROTC
Heath Schneider

Joint Special Operations Command
Michael Anderson
Valerie Caruso

Pope test base for new spouse career initiative

By Jason Sibrel
Education counselor

Pope and Fort Bragg have been chosen to participate in the new Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (SCAA) initiative scheduled to allow spouses to begin training as early as January 2008.

The Pope Education Center will be holding its first information briefing today at 9:30 a.m. at the Military Personnel Flight building room 222. The same meeting will be held Dec. 28 at 9:30 a.m. at room 222.

This initiative is designed to advance military spouses into portable careers by providing them with funded education and training in high-growth, high-demand fields including information technology, education, health services, financial services and the construction trades. Career Advancement Accounts can be used to pay for expenses directly related to post-secondary education and training, including tuition, fees, books, equipment, and credentialing and licensing fees.

The initiative targets military spouses with a General Education Degree, high-school diploma or some post-secondary education and who are married to active-duty service members in the grades of E1-E5 and O1-O3 with at least one year left at Pope.

Military spouses in need of renewing credentials (for example, nursing and teaching certificates) upon relocating to Pope are also eligible.

Accounts may be up to \$3,000 for one year and may be renewed for one additional year if approved, for a total two-year account of up to \$6,000 per spouse. For length of training, Career Center Assessment counselors will be on hand during each Pope briefing. For additional information and program eligibility criteria on Career Advancement Accounts, visit the SCAA homepage at <http://caa.milspouse.org/>.

This is a demonstration project, so it may not be available if you receive a Permanent Change of Station out of North Carolina. Only eight states are participating in this project. Both Pope and Fort Bragg active duty spouses in the above listed ranks may be eligible.

Installation/Base Voluntary Education Centers and Airman Family Readiness Centers will initiate military spouse applications and forward them to local One-Stop Career Centers for account establishment and issuance. Education Centers, A&FRC and One-Stop Career Centers will collaborate to provide career counseling, guidance and assessments to support military spouse career and education choices.

The local Career Center makes the determination on specific and final criteria eligibility and disperses all approved funds directly to the recipient’s account.

Briefings are scheduled to be held every second and fourth Friday of each month. Attendance at the briefings will be necessary as program applications and checklist will be provided. These briefings will have limited seating, so call the Pope Education Center at 394-1141 to register. Further information will be provided once registered for a briefing date.

Community Corner

Pre-Deployment Class

Designed for all military members going TDY or remote for 30 days or more. Married members are encouraged to bring their spouses. Call 394-2538 to register with the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

Post Deployment

Topics include the reintegration process and signs and symptoms of combat stress and post-traumatic stress disorder. The class will also address on and off base resources available to assist in managing stressors. Call the Mental Health Clinic at 394-4700 to register.

Couples Counseling

Couples counseling is designed to help couples enhance the most significant experience of their lives — marriage. Couples committed to making their marriage a fulfilling and growing relationship will find a wealth of practical ideas for building a firm foundation for their future together. Call 394-4700 to schedule an appointment at the Mental Health Clinic. The active-duty Airman must be present.

New Parent Support Program

This program provides home visits by a registered nurse to active-duty military and spouses with children ages 0-3 years old. Call 394-4700 to speak with the Family Advocacy Nurse for more information.

Moms, Tots, and Pops Playground

For parents and children and infants up to age 3. Activities include songs, crafts and open gym play. Playgroup is held every Monday and Wednesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m., at the Pope Youth Center. For more information, call the Family Advocacy Program.

News

Editor's note: To maintain the newsworthiness and timeliness of the Carolina Flyer, briefs will run for a maximum of four weeks or until the event occurs, whichever comes first. If there's a need to extend the publication of the brief, call the editor at 394-0043.

■ Breakfast and bingo: The Community Center is having a holiday Bingo Extravaganza and Breakfast with Santa Saturday at 8 a.m. Santa is making a special trip to eat breakfast and play bingo with Pope members. The cost is \$5 per person. For more information, call 394-4512.

■ Madden mania: The Pope Club is having a Madden Mania Sunday at 1 p.m. Pre-register online by noon today at 43dservices.com/madden-reg.html.

1st place prize is a \$300 Game Stop gift card; **2nd place prize** is a \$200 Game Stop gift card; **3rd place prize** is a \$100 Game Stop gift card. Come to compete, eat and watch the NFL Sunday ticket. For more information, call Airman 1st Class Sankarsingh at 394-6804 or Airman 1st Class Hawkins at 394-4754.

■ Santa's Attic: The Airman and Family Readiness Center is having Santa's Attic for all Pope Elementary and Pope assigned members' children ages 2 through 10 can shop for a holiday gift for Mom and Dad from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday. Santa's Attic is located at the A&FRC on Armistead St. near

the Shoppette. Children of parents E-5 and below are free; all others are \$5 per child. Santa's helpers will be on hand to assist the children with picking a gift. The children have the opportunity to get their picture with Santa, make cards and enjoy refreshments.

■ Closing: The Multimedia Center Studio is closed Dec. 18 and 19 in support of General Lichte's visit, please plan accordingly. For emergency requests call 394-4212. These requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

■ Superbowl bingo: The Pope Club is hosting a

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News

From Page 5

Superbowl bingo Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. Members pay \$60 and nonmembers pay \$75 through Dec. 18. After Dec. 18, the price increases to \$65 for members and \$80 for nonmembers. The winner receives an all-expense paid trip to Superbowl XLII in Phoenix valued at \$13,500.

■ **Toy drive:** The Salvation Army is requesting volunteers for the holiday toy drive at their warehouse now through Wednesday, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Any amount of time one can donate is appreciated. Toys are distributed Dec. 18 and 19 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call Daniel Tester at 394-1502 or send an e-mail to Daniel.teste-02@pope.af.mil.

■ **Golf:** The Willow Lakes Golf Course is hosting the Winter Pass Golf Special for \$125. The pass is good through March 31. Individuals may play all week (Monday through Sunday.) Carts are available Friday through Sunday at a 20 percent

discount. For more information, call 394-4721.

■ **Retraining program:** Air Force officials have announced phase two of the 2008 noncommissioned officer retraining program, targeting approximately 502 Airmen, staff sergeants, technical sergeants and master sergeants, from Air Force Specialty Codes with overages to AFSCs with NCO shortages. The involuntary phase two of the program runs through March 31. For complete details and a list of available retraining-in and retraining-out AFSCs, call the commander's support staff at 394-4424.

■ **Job search:** The Airman and Family Readiness Center is holding a CSX company orientation an information session Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Opportunities exist for: freight conductors, electricians, mechanics/machinists, track workers, clerks, management trainees and operations supervisors. For more information, call 394-2538 or visit the Web sites at www.csx.com or www.csxmilitary.com.

Outside the gate

Editor's note: To maintain the newsworthiness and timeliness of the Carolina Flyer, briefs will run four weeks or until the event occurs.

■ **Holiday Pet Adoptions:** The Fort Bragg Adoption Facility has cats and dogs in need of adoption in time for the holidays.

The cost is \$67 and includes all vaccinations and a microchip. The Adoption Facility is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is located off Reilly Road in Building. 2-7402. For more information, call 396-5769.

■ **Brunch with Santa:** Fort Bragg's Officers' Club will host their annual Brunch with Santa on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost for members is \$9.95, children ages 6-11 is \$5. Cost for non-members is \$13.95, children ages 6-11 is \$7.50. All children ages 5 and under free. Open to the public. For more information, call 907-CLUB.



ASK THE DOC

43rd Medical Group ... Healthy Forces • Healthy Families



Q: In general, I tend to feel more depressed and irritable as winter rolls on. Why does this season get me so upset?

A: To some degree, many people feel this way during the fall and winter months; however, if these "winter blues" persist or lead to other problems, you may be experiencing a more severe form of mood disorder, which may also include problems sleeping, loss of pleasure, self-critical thoughts, low energy/motivation, distractibility, changes in appetite, and feeling dull or slowed down. There are many possible explanations: sunlight is limited; colder temperatures and shorter days mean less opportunity for fun outdoor activities, games, and exercise opportunities; those on academic schedules get fewer breaks/rests; and feelings of disappointment after the excitement of the holidays. Regardless of the cause, the easiest solution is to try reversing some of these trends. Just a small effort and extra attention to modify your normal routines now can have a great impact on your satisfaction and happiness throughout the season. Make the pendulum swing the other way by going the extra mile to ensure your schedule is full: 1) Carefully schedule your exercise times; 2) Plan regular social activities; 3) Shift to different hobbies or activities that can be done indoors (like basketball instead of softball); 4) Let in as much light as possible during the day and use bright fluorescent lights after the sun goes down; 5) Make the most of days off or weekends when events can be planned for daylight hours. Be careful not to isolate yourself or to rely on drinking alcohol as a typical spare-time activity. If needed, talk to a health care provider in the Pope Clinic or the Mental Health Clinic, or get some guidance at www.militaryonesource.com.

Please send your questions to askthedoc@pope.af.mil. We look forward to hearing from you!

18th ASOG part of consolidation

By Capt. Dustin Hart
23rd Wing Public Affairs

Pope’s 18th Air Support Operations Group is consolidating with other units specializing in ground combat missions under the 93rd Air Ground Operations Wing at Moody AFB, Ga., with the tentative standup date set for Jan. 25, 2008.

93rd AGOW officials will consolidate the tactical air control party and battlefield weather specialties of the 18th ASOG with the 3rd Air Support Operations Group at Fort Hood, Texas. The specialized force protection capabilities of the 820th Security Forces Group at Moody will also be part of the consolidation.

Lt. Col. Drew Hodges, director of operations for the 18th ASOG, said Pope personnel will not notice an impact and the group will continue to have as strong a presence here as they have always had.

“This is where our customers are, Fort Bragg, so we’ll be at Pope,” he said.

This unit consolidating will allow the 93rd AGOW to provide the three units with a single command and control structure. Due to their specialized nature and, in several cases, co-location with Army units, these groups have traditionally reported directly to their respective numbered Air Force.

The 18th ASOG was previously a direct reporting unit to

the Ninth Air Force at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

“A centralized command organization will allow for the standardization of their training and employment,” said Brig. Gen. Michael A. Longoria, the Detachment 5 commander at Moody who is responsible for establishing logistical needs of the wing.

“These (units) have been given great support by their respective NAF commanders,” he said. “That is why we have been able to continually improve our combat capability. It is time; however, to take another step in that improvement and give our great air-ground experts in the Air Force a command structure by which they can stay in this business.”

In addition to providing a single command structure, the activation of the 93rd AGOW also highlights the similarities that exist between the individual units’ missions.

“In Iraq, fighting right alongside our security forces Airmen are Army maneuver elements that are embedded with Air Force (tactical air control parties),” General Longoria said. “There is a natural relationship between ‘fight-the-base’ force protection and the TAC-P’s ‘terminal-attack’ mission of being a liaison to and supporting the Army. We think it is going to be a good relationship that will actually increase our combat capability by bringing these two

functions and tasks together.”

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 and the subsequent operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Air Force has seen an increasing demand placed on ground-combat capabilities.

“The Air Force recognizes the air-ground activity is terribly important and puts a priority on it,” General Longoria said. “We take some of our best Airmen and assign them side by side with every Army maneuver division and brigade. The mission of this wing on the terminal-attack side is to support those TAC-P elements and enhance what they do both in war and peacetime.”

Being a constant source of support to the Airmen is the key to his wing’s success, the general said.

“There will be little doubt that the Airmen and the combat capability that this wing produces is far ‘outside the wire’ and it’s any place, any time and any where,” he said.

While ensuring his Airmen are well taken care of, the general said they shouldn’t worry about seeing the way they operate change.



AIRMAN MINDY BLOEM

PSAC gives for holidays

Elizabeth Smothers, 43rd Mission Support Squadron, thanks Robert Grover (left), president of the Pope Special Activities Committee, and Kenny Burke (right), PSAC treasurer, for their donation to the Airman and Family Readiness Center Dec. 7 at the Wing Headquarters building. The PSAC donated \$500 to the A&FRC food closet, \$350 to Santa’s Attic and \$1,000 to the first sergeants for holiday baskets. Col. Timothy Zadalis, 43rd Airlift Wing Commander and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Grimm, 43rd Airlift Wing Command Chief were also on hand to thank PSAC for their donation.

Avoid GTC delinquencies during holidays

By Lt. Col. George Tombe
43rd Comptroller Squadron
Commander

Tis' the season for holiday cheer and putting the finishing touches on that gift list. While out getting that last minute gift, don't fall for the temptation to use a Government Travel Card or Government Purchase Card.

Each year the Air Force experiences an increase in GTC delinquencies near the end of the first fiscal quarter, which falls around the holiday season.

Certainly, everyone knows never to use the GTC or GPC for personal or unauthorized purposes. Where the real danger lies is with the member who doesn't pay the GTC bill when it comes due or has 100 percent of the travel voucher sent to their bank account instead of paying off their GTC.

Deployments and increased operations tempo often contributes to GTC delinquency, but there are several steps that everyone can take to avoid late payments:

- File the vouchers within five days of returning from TDY and use split disbursement for all outstanding GTC charges; it is required and ensures the proper amount gets paid to the card on time.
- Individuals deploying or going TDY for more than 45 days can prepare accrual vouchers to be submitted every 30 days. This ensures certain balances are paid off on time. Accrual vouchers are easy to set up and are available through the finance

- office and Defense Travel System.
- Requests for accrual vouchers can also be sent via the virtual MPF Web site or by faxing or emailing them to the local finance office. By initiating accrual vouchers, this ensures the balance will be paid.
- If deploying to a location that does not allow for Web access on a regular basis, make advance arrangements with finance or the assigned squadron for accrual vouch-

- ers with split disbursement to be filed. With that in place, meeting financial obligations to pay in a timely manner is not a problem.
- Although the GTC is a government card, it is solely the responsibility of the member to make sure it is paid on time. When someone doesn't apply for a proper split disbursement, they can make a payment by going to www.myeasypayment.com to see the card's balance and pay the bill online.

As a reminder to commanders, make certain to have an alternate agency program coordinator trained and available when the primary APC is absent. This becomes even more crucial as we enter the holiday season. Following these simple steps will reduce delinquencies and help Team Pope avoid the traditional spike in late payments that occur this time of year. For more information on GTC payments, call the finance office at 394-0025.

MPF to begin new year with re-organization plans

By Master Sgt. Alexandra Hoellein
43rd Mission Support Squadron

The Military Personnel Flight will reorganize Jan. 1, with the major change being that customers will now be assisted by personnel technicians at the MPF rather than at their commander support staff.

The reorganization imple-

ments the AF/A1 base level services delivery model and is necessary due to continuing reductions in personnel authorizations in conjunction with Personnel Services Delivery transformation and Program Budget Decision 720.

The MPF will now consist of five divisions. Each will be responsible for various personnel programs, including programs traditionally com-

pleted by CSS. Some of these programs include ID cards, leave accrual, assignments, retraining, accessions, deployments, exercises, awards and decorations, military testing and records.

Under the new organization, customers will continue to receive traditional unit-level personnel services. In addition, many personnel

programs are available online via Virtual Military Personnel Flight applications or through the Air Force Contact Center.

Customers can access programs such as retraining, retirement or humanitarian

reassignment applications online from their desktop computer. Non-personnel programs which were traditionally handled by the CSS will remain in the units. Programs such as Government Travel Card

management, LeaveWeb validations or Defense Travel System orders will remain at the unit. For more information concerning the reorganization, call Maj. Betsy Ross at 394-1091.

Santa’s elves visit Pope Airmen early



Felicia Huweart, Pope Spouse Association representative, and her daughter, Jillian, hand out coupons to Airmen during the PSA Saint Nick project conducted Dec. 6 at the Pope dormitories. More than 500 Airmen received gifts of coupons for free food, oil changes and discounted coupons to local area merchants along with personal need products as well. The PSA wanted to show their appreciation for all the Pope Airmen do.

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Todd Wivell
Staff writer

The cold, frigid night began with the elves gathering all the presents and loading them into their sleighs.

With temperatures in the mid 40s, the night air felt unusually crisp as the elves began delivering their packages to the Airmen living in the dormitories at Pope.

As fictional as this scenario sounds, on the night of

Dec. 6 more than 500 Airmen living in the dorms here received packages on their doorsteps from the Pope Spouses Association.

“PSA wanted to show our appreciation to the Airmen who reside in the dormito-

ries,” said Felicia Huweart, PSA representative. “We thought we should make goody bags to thank them for their service.

“In the European tradition, surprises are left on the Night of the Feast of Saint

Nicholas, Dec. 6. We carried that tradition onto Pope and hopefully started something that will continue each year.”

It took the coordination of approximately 40 people to make this event a success. Volunteers assisted in all areas from soliciting donations, making contributions, getting information about the dorm residents, assembling and delivering the packages to assistance provided by the dorm managers, first sergeants council, security forces and other organizations on base.

Each Airman received a goody bag that consisted of various coupons for free meals to local establishments, toiletries, candy, popcorn, writing pads and magnets, movie tickets, discounted oil change coupons, calling cards and other donated items from throughout the local area.

“It was nice to receive a gift and feel appreciated,”

said Airman 1st Class Amber Morton, 43rd Airlift Wing Legal Office and dorm resident. “I heard a rumor that we might be visited during the night and it was fun to wait and see what we would get. I cannot thank enough all those who contributed for their kindness and generosity.”

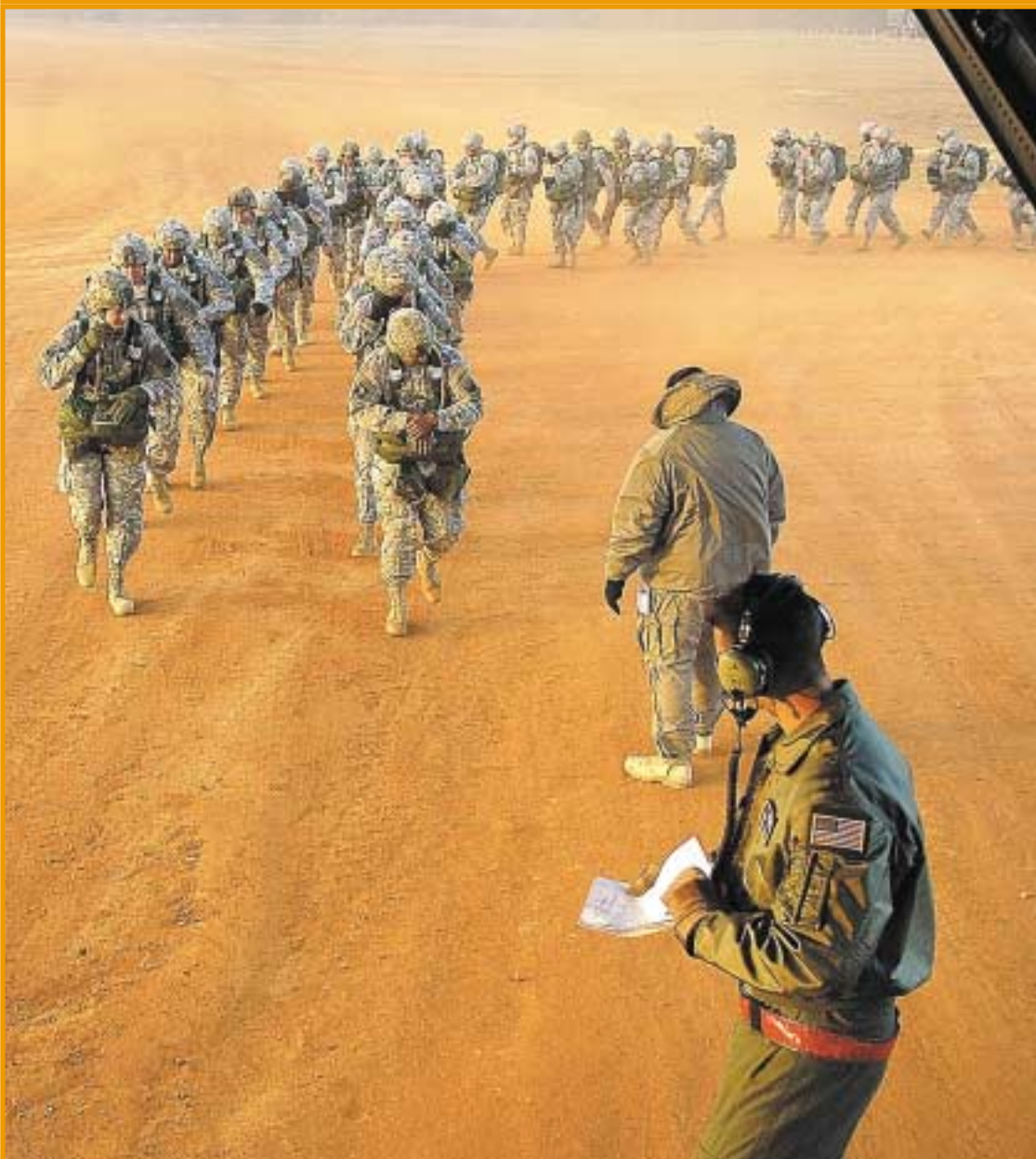
The PSA received the goody bag donations from businesses throughout Spring Lake, Sanford and Fayetteville. “We are grateful to the generous businesses that made contributions,” said Mrs. Huweart. “It is people like that who make this a great community.

“Everyone we ran into that cold winter night while delivering was very appreciative. Many Airmen went out of their way to thank us for remembering them. It was heart warming. PSA looks forward to continuing the tradition next year.”

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A paratrooper comes to rest on the ground at Sicily Landing Zone as his counterparts follow during Saturday's toy drop. Fifty paratroopers jumped during each flight in Pope C-130s.



Paratroopers prepare to enter a Pope C-130 during Operation Toy Drop Saturday.

Operation Toy Drop a success

By Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe
440th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Reserve, Active Duty Airmen and Soldiers partner in Operation Toy Drop

Army Pvt. Gregory Amones sat on the ground with a cherry pie oozing out the right thigh pocket of his uniform. Facing his first parachute jump at Fort Bragg, N.C., the soldier didn't mind the smashed cherry stain on his battle uniform. The cherry pie right of passage didn't compare to the jump he was about to make from a 440th Airlift Wing C-130. Private Amones was joining more than a thousand other soldiers and Airmen in Operation Toy Drop.

Celebrating its tenth year, Operation Toy Drop is an international exercise that trains allied jumpmasters to work with U.S. active duty and Reserve soldiers. The soldiers' airlift is provided by active duty and Reserve C-130 aircrews.

"It's an extremely worthwhile program," said Lt. Col. John Loranger, a navigator assigned to the 440th Airlift Wing based at Pope AFB, who flew his first "Toy Drop" on Saturday. "Not only do we fly missions supporting combined joint operations, we're also collecting thousands of toys to help needy children during the holiday season."

Named after Sgt. 1st Class Randy Oler, a deceased jumpmaster who spearheaded the original toy drop, the mission attracts international jumpmasters and U.S. soldiers eager to earn international jump wings. The majority of the event is run by Fort Bragg's Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command. The airlift was provided by the 2nd Airlift Squadron and 95th Airlift Squadron - Air Force Reserve.

This year's participants included jumpmasters from Canada, Chile, Germany and Ireland.

"It's a meaningful exercise," said Sgt. Kai Becker, a German airborne soldier participating in Operation Toy Drop. "As a jumpmaster I get to give American soldiers wings after they jump, and it's a wonderful way to meet other airborne soldiers from around the world."

Sergeant Becker said the toy drop made the

event extra special. "I donated a car for a young boy," he said. "Maybe it will be the son of a deployed soldier who receives it."

The German jumpmaster described the weekend as an exciting buildup to the jump.

"First we (U.S. and international soldiers) donate a toy or two," he explained. "Then the soldiers get a lottery number. The random number determines what chalk they will fly on the next day, and what international jumpmaster they will work with. The event is very festive."

By Saturday morning, hundreds of soldiers lined up at the Sicily Drop Zone on Fort Bragg. At timed intervals, the C-130s landed and the soldiers marched onto the aircraft with the engines still running. Within five minutes, the C-130s took off in the dust, and a short time later the soldiers jumped from the C-130s as hundreds of families and friends watched from the ground.

Mission Commander Capt. Adam Shockley, a navigator with the 43rd Airlift Wing, monitored the C-130s from the Sicily Drop Zone.

"Everyone wins in Operation Toy Drop," he said, holding a radio to his ear as he watched soldiers jump from a Reserve C-130. "This is the first year the 440th is a player, and we're seeing integration between the active duty and Reserve, and learning from each other in the process. We're also seeing the Army and Air Force work together, and pulling in the foreign jumpmasters. It's really an amazing operation."

Operation Toy Drop veteran Army Sgt. Major Kevin Quinn agreed.

"By bringing all these people together, we are exchanging a lot of knowledge," said the soldier. "We are sharing practices, procedures and techniques for a good cause, and will be better prepared for NATO missions and combined joint operations."

More than 1,050 soldiers jumped this year, averaging about 50 per plane.



Right, 1st Lt. Andrew "Doby" Gillis, 2nd Airlift Squadron pilot of Blitzen 1 during Operation Toy Drop Saturday, guides his C-130 toward the drop zone with Lt. Col. Walter Ward, 2nd Airlift Squadron Commander.



Army paratroopers exit a Pope C-130 over Fort Bragg's Sicily Drop Zone during the 10th Annual Randy Oler Operation Toy Drop Saturday. More than 1,050 airborne-qualified Soldiers and Airmen donated more than 1,400 toys for local children in return for the opportunity to jump during the event.



2nd Airlift Squadron loadmasters Airman 1st Class Kurt Sprigler, Senior Airman Jerred Sevold and Senior Airman Spencer Tosi prepare the C-130 cargo compartment for paratroopers Saturday in preparation for Operation Toy Drop. Each aircraft dropped approximately 50 Soldiers and Airmen for each lift.



C-130 aircraft commander Capt. Nate Mansfield, 2nd Airlift Squadron, watches for Sicily Drop Zone in preparation to drop paratroopers during Saturday's Operation Toy Drop. Two aircraft each from Pope's 43rd and 440th Airlift Wings dropped 50 paratroopers before landing at Sicily Landing Zone on Fort Bragg to pick up another load. More than 1,000 paratroopers were dropped during the operation.



A Pope C-130 taxis on Sicily Landing Zone to pick up another 50 toy drop paratroopers.

Council member has strong ties to Pope community

**Story and photo by
Airman Mindy Bloem**
Staff writer

As a child growing up in New York City, Valencia Applewhite never dreamed she would wind up in the Air Force, a choice that would eventually influence her decision to join the Fayetteville City Council.

Mrs. Applewhite moved to Connecticut where she ultimately got a job at a bank. She had to rely on public transportation to take her to and from work each day. The bus stop just happened to be positioned in front of an Armed Forces recruiting station. One day she noticed a man dressed in a “sharp blue uniform” walk by her and into that recruiting station.

“I didn’t know what services the different uniforms belonged to at the time,” Mrs. Applewhite said.

She followed him into his office where she began to ask questions and learn about the Air Force’s programs. After being tested, she signed up and left for basic training Oct. 11, 1979.

“When I was growing up, I always had a sense of adventure, and while I was working at the bank and other places, I just sensed there was something else out there for me.”

Mrs. Applewhite said a moment of realization came to her when her loved ones were seeing her off at the airport before she left for basic training.

“While I was boarding the airplane, I remember looking back at all my neighbors and family and knowing I was never going to come back,” she said. “And by come back, I mean never going to come back home in the way I had always known home to be.”

Mrs. Applewhite has 20 years of active duty to her credit and five years as a DoD civilian

She recalled a specific incident as a young Airman which benefited her maturity process in the Air Force.

“When I was a young Airman, I missed a mandatory test date,” she said. “My supervisor at the time read me the riot act. He told me to get my priorities straight. That statement stayed with me my entire career. As a supervisor, you never know the effect you’re going to have on someone. I never got another letter of counseling or anything similar to that throughout my career.”

One of her proudest moments came when she was stationed at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, as a student in the noncommissioned officer academy.

She was pulled out of class and told the commandant wanted to see her, she was a little nervous, but she knew she hadn’t done anything wrong. He called her in to tell her she was selected to be a professional military education instructor.

“I hadn’t even completed PME at that time,” she said. “Also there were a lot of sharp NCOs in my class, which made me feel so proud to be selected.”

Mrs. Applewhite doesn’t regret a moment of her career in the Air Force and is surprised with how fast it can come and go.

“I loved being in the Air Force,” she said. “I absolutely loved being a Senior NCO. My 20 years were up so quickly. I have

done everything in my Air Force career from digging fox holes in Korea to putting up tents in cold weather to working on Air Force One.

“After I retired my old boss, who, at that time, worked at the Pentagon, said they really needed me there for a position in the headquarters building. The “service before self” mindset was so much in me that I decided to go.” She went in May 2000.

Mrs. Applewhite said after five and a half years, the job they asked her to do was done and more. She said it was time for her to move on and returned to Fayetteville in 2005.

Mrs. Applewhite came back home to North Carolina under different circumstances from what she was used to in the past.

“At first, I wasn’t really sure what I was going to do,” she said. “People thought I was crazy -- I had no job but I had some savings, so I decided to get my real estate license.”

It was not until a neighbor suggested she would make a great city council member that she decided to take on the world of politics.

“My neighbor thought I would be ideal for the job considering I was not only a Fayetteville resident but had Air Force experience as well,” she said.

The fact that Mrs. Applewhite has had 20-plus years of military experience is something some people think will prove to be a valuable asset for Pope members.

“It’s great to have someone with your military background in a position of leadership within the community,” Col. Timothy Zadalis, 43rd Airlift Wing Commander, said to Mrs. Applewhite during their introduction.

“Even after almost 10 years since her retirement from the Air Force, Mrs. Applewhite continues to uphold the Air Force core values,” said Master Sgt. Tywana Frazier, 43rd AW judge advocate.

“ ‘Integrity First’”: she has never compromised her beliefs or her position for the sake of getting ahead.

“‘Service before Self’: the fact that she stepped out on faith to challenge an incumbent who had been in office for 10 years, states that she wanted a chance to serve the people of Fayetteville and a chance to make a difference.

“‘Excellence in all we do’: she has committed herself to being a part of the change Fayetteville needs in order to successfully support the base realignment and closure transition. She knows the road ahead will be challenging but she is committed to its success,” Sergeant Frazier said.

“Fayetteville is changing with the base realignment and closure,” Mrs. Applewhite said. It’s important to have the right leadership in place -- leadership that understands the military. Military is important. People can’t do things the same and expect different results. Fayetteville needed new leadership. The district was ready for change, and someone who would listen to the needs of the community.

“Mrs. Applewhite will be

good for the Pope community for several reasons,” said Sergeant Frazier. “Pope is ‘home’ for her. She spent five years here prior to her retirement from active duty, and she has roots here. She has seen Pope grow during her active duty years here, from the new dining facility to the new fitness center.

In addition, there are several members on the board who are retired Army or who are affiliated with the Army. Those members have a vested interest in looking out for the (Fort) Bragg community. She is the only person on the city council who has an Air Force background and hopefully she can be a voice for the Pope community.

Mrs. Applewhite has been so affected by the Air Force’s core values that she even implemented “service before self” as part of her campaign slogan.

She resides in Fayetteville with her husband and two sons.



Valencia Applewhite, Fayetteville City Council member for District 7 and a former Pope master sergeant, shares a laugh with Chief Master Sgt. Michael Grimm, 43rd Airlift Wing Command Chief, during a meeting with the 43rd AW Commander Dec. 6.

Safe gift ideas for the holiday season

By Richard Burns
43rd Airlift Wing safety office

The holidays are a time to celebrate with family, friends and colleagues. Millions of dollars are spent on gifts for our loved ones to ensure their eyes are aglow when Santa pays his annual visit.

Parents want their children to be exposed to safe toys that will keep them occupied as the parents prepare the much anticipated holiday meal. These gifts can sometimes pose problems for our children. Some of us may experience the unwanted result of a child who receives a gift that is not age appropriate or is potentially hazardous in design.

To avoid being caught up in this situation, keep in mind these safe gift ideas when shopping for the perfect gift:

- Parents should make recommendations to family members and friends about gifts that would be appropriate for their children.
- Check lists of toy recalls before buying anything. Recalled toys pose significant safety hazards. Safe Kids at www.safekids.org posts a recent list of toy recalls. For further information on toy and product recalls, visit the U.S. Product Safety Commission Web site at www.cpsc.gov.
- People should find out the exact ages of the children they're shopping for. When buying gifts, it's extremely important to buy age-appropriate gifts, even if the child seems bigger or more mature for his age. Inspect all the toys before purchasing
- Look for the letters "ASTM." The letters mean the product meets the national safety standards set by the American Society for Testing and Materials.
- Gifts of sports equipment should always be accompanied by protective gear (i.e: a basketball should come with eye goggles and a mouth piece). The American Academy of Ophthalmology estimates there are 40,000 sports-related eye injuries each year.
- Do not purchase balls or

toys smaller than 1.75 inches in diameter (about the size of a standard toilet paper roll). These can get lodged in the child's windpipe and cause choking.

- Read the manual for the toy before using it. Manuals

usually give warnings about safety concerns and what behaviors to avoid when playing with the item.

- When purchasing child restraint devices, get the proper seat based on the

child's age, weight and sometimes height (up to 49 inches). North Carolina law states these devices are required if the child is less than 8 years old and weighs less than 80 pounds. Infant seat/carri-

ers are designed for children 20 through 22 pounds. Convertibles are designed for children up to 40 pounds. Safety note: It is recommended to keep children in the rear facing position when they are 18

to 24 months of age if the child gets a child restraint device.

Individuals who know people with young children should pass these safety tips to others. Enjoy the holiday and be safe.



Get 40% in 2007?

Help Pope reach our target of 40 percent of all solid waste being diverted to the recycling center ... not the landfills.

Recycle, it's the right thing to do.

For more information, contact your unit/group environmental coordinators or the 43rd CES environmental flight.

Town Hall held for future youth programs



Bob Talley, Pope Youth Sports director, addresses questions from Pope members during the youth programs Town Hall meeting at the community center Tuesday.

**Story and photo by
2nd Lt. Chris Hoyler**
Editor

A town hall meeting was held at the Pope Community Center Tuesday to discuss the future of Youth Programs at Pope.

Parents asked questions of program staff and base leadership, including Col. Timothy Zadalis, 43rd Airlift Wing Commander, and Col. Pat Savoy, 43rd Mission Support Group Com-

mander. The purpose of the meeting was to provide up to date details about Pope's Youth and School Age Programs moving to the School Age Building on 902 Armistead St. The facility will include separate teen and pre-teen rooms, with a large multi-purpose room and adjacent game room.

Youth and school age programs are currently held at the Pope Youth Center in a building

leased under the Picerne Military Housing Office. While a few programs will no longer be offered by Pope due to lack of space, such as the Part-Day Preschool program, there will still be options for parents.

"We want to let people know that there are still going to be lots of programs here," Vicky Haskins, chief of family programs, said.

Ms. Haskins said she has received phone calls and emails from parents frustrated with some of the minor changes associated with the move, such as shifting transportation requirements, but the reward is the programs getting a chance to be seen throughout Pope.

These programs kick off in the New Year, with the Community Center hosting a Pre-Teen Dance Jan. 5 from 5 to 7 p.m and a Teen Lock-In Jan. 18 beginning at 8 p.m. and ending at 7 a.m.

There will be activities and events organized in other Pope Services facilities, including the base theatre, Willow Lakes Golf Course and bowling center.

"It's still everything we've been doing, but now we can use the base more," Ms. Haskins said.

Also, Pope families can now use the five Picerne Neighborhood Centers at Fort Bragg, which feature amenities including a computer lab, fitness room, outdoor swimming pool and half-court indoor gymnasium.

"They are tremendous facilities," Ms. Haskins said.

Youth sports will also continue to be offered at Pope, which is just another example of families

having options at both Pope and Fort Bragg.

"We know there's an impact; we want people to understand the options they have at (Pope and Bragg)," Ms. Haskins said.

Basketball is the next upcoming youth sport at Pope. Bob Talley, head of youth sports, said practices will begin in early January. The goal is to get five practices in before games begin. The basketball program will happen at the Pope Fitness Center.

Mr. Talley said the basketball

program is searching for volunteers to coach teams. The goal is to play at least a six-game season.

Recreation hours will stay the same. For teens, Monday through Thursday hours will be 2:30 to 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday will be 2:30 to 10 p.m. For pre-teens the Monday through Saturday hours will be 2:30 to 7 p.m.

For general information about Pope's Youth Programs, call Ms. Haskins at 394-3486. For sports programs information, call Mr. Talley at 394-2636.

Air Force Aid promotes education programs

By Airman Mindy Bloem
Staff writer

Pope members may be happy to learn the Air Force Aid Society's education programs are geared at not only helping active duty members realize their academic goals, but helping their family members as well.

The centerpiece of the society's education initiatives is the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program which provides \$2,000 grants to selected sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 Air Guard Reserve/Reservists, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired reserve and deceased Air Force members; spouses (stateside) of active duty members and Title 10 AGR/Reservists; and surviving spouses of deceased personnel for their undergraduate studies, according to the AFAS Web site.

The criteria for the program takes into account the specific need of the individual by assessing family income and education costs.

“It is a need-based program, so they (AFAS) look at the applicant's financial information,” said Dawn Doan, community readiness technician. “This specific program has been an overwhelmingly popular initiative as nearly 82,000 grants have been awarded since the program's inception in 1988.”

The eligibility requirements as listed on the Web site www.afas.org/Education/body_grant.cfm are:

Applicants must be in one of the following categories (items 1-3) and meet all other eligibility criteria listed below (items 4-6):

Sons and Daughters of Air Force members in one of the following categories:

- Active duty, Title 10 AGR/Reservist on extended active duty, and Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty. All members must be on active duty through December 1, 2008 (all other Guard and Reserve are not eligible).
- Retired due to length of active duty service or disability, or retired AGR/Reservists with 20 or more qualifying years creditable for retired pay (all others are not eligible).
- Deceased while on active duty or in retired status.

Spouses of Active Duty members and Title 10 AGR/Reservists on extended active duty. Member's active duty status must extend through Dec. 1, 2008.

Eligible spouses must:

- Reside and attend school within the lower 48 contiguous states during the academic year.
- Be legally married to member (not separated or pending divorce) at time of application and disbursement of award.
- Spouses of active duty members residing overseas

(including Alaska and Hawaii) during the academic year have access to a separate AFAS grant program, called the Spouse Tuition Assistance Program and therefore, are not eligible under this program.

Surviving spouses of Air Force members who died

while on active duty or in retired status.

Will be a high school graduate enrolled or accepted as a full-time undergraduate student in the 2008-2009 academic year. (Note: Students enrolled exclusively in distance education courses should check with their

school official to verify their enrollment as meeting school's full-time status requirements.)

Will be enrolled or accepted in an accredited college, university or vocational/trade school approved by the U.S. Department of Education for

participation in federal aid programs.

Maintain at least a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale.

Eligibility in future years requires previous grant recipients to demonstrate satisfactory progress by promotion in school

grade level. Awards are not automatically renewed; students must reapply and re-compete each year.

Interested individuals should apply by March 7. For more information regarding this program, call the AFAS at 1(800)429-9475, (703) 607-3072 or DSN 327-3072.



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910-394-4258
or toll free
1-800-622-8745

TRICARE information
1-877-TRICARE
1-877 (874-2273)

Referral appointments
1-800-931-9501

43rd CS wraps up perfect season with back-to-back titles

By Staff Sgt. Jon LaDue
Staff writer

The 43rd Communications Squadron had only one thing on their minds to prove this season as the defending flag football champs — that they could do it all over again.

“Coming off of a championship season, our expectations were to repeat,” said 43rd CS quarterback and coach William “G-Force” Gibbs. “But due to the fact that most of the team was returning from the previous season, we set out sights even higher ... an undefeated season.”

That’s just what they did. 43rd CS demanded perfection, and they were going undefeated in 14 regular season games. The team proved they could not only win games, but dominate them as well, outscoring opponents 225-80 in the regular season, including six wins by 13 points or more.

The team started refining their skills and team chemistry about three weeks prior to the season’s kickoff. Gibbs said once the season started they didn’t need to practice anymore because the team’s chemistry was well in place. Instead, the team relied on their championship experience to win games.

“We became the master of putting defensive backs in a position where whatever choice they made, it was the wrong one,” Gibbs said. “We may not have been the fastest or most gifted team, but we were the smartest, most experience team, which makes up



STAFF SGT. BRIAN MARGAVICH

The 43rd CS poses with Col. Timothy Zadalis, 43rd AW Commander and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Grimm, 43rd AW Command Chief, for their flag football championship photo Dec. 4.

for a lot of other shortcomings.

“A team can win with athletes or crazy plays drawn in the sand, but the best recipe is an organized, safe offense with sure-handed wide receivers,” added Gibbs.

Offensively, the team put their trust into Gibbs, their fleet-footed quarterback. As coach, Gibbs likes to run the “west coast offense, ” with some trick plays, a few runs and a lot of passes down field.

43rd CS had some key playmakers offensively at the wide receiver position including Tommy “EAZY” Edgar, Zachery “Turbo” Turbyfill, Lonnie Theriault and Nathan “Sprinkles” Rhoton.

Edgar said another thing

that makes 43rd CS so good is its strong defense, anchored

by defensive linemen Justin “Crooked J” Graves and

Richard “LT” Davis. Their strength and speed allowed them to put pressure on quarterbacks all season, which made the rest of the defense’s job easier.

“Our scheme was designed to pressure [opposing] quarterbacks into a bad throw as the pocket collapsed,” said Gibbs. “All of our defensive backs played wide receiver, so when the ball was in the air we felt like we had the upper hand.

The defensive strategy proved deadly for opposing offenses as 43rd CS pitched five shutouts and held opponents to under seven points in nine of their 14 regular season games.

Despite having to overcome injuries to Turbyfill and

Edgar during the season, Gibbs said the team believed all along they could repeat as champions, but really started to feel confident once they defeated every team in their conference.

They carried that momentum into the playoffs, defeating the 43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron twice and 43rd Services Squadron to bring their overall record to 17-0 heading into the championship game.

43rd CS did this with some help from Davis, who Gibbs said was their most improved player throughout the season. Davis played running back for the Air Force Academy, but it took some

See FOOTBALL on Page 17



STAFF SGT. BRIAN MARGAVICH

Rich Davis, 43rd Communications Squadron, makes a play during his team’s flag football championship victory on Dec. 4. Davis played running back at the Air Force Academy.

Football

From Page 16

time for him to adjust to the style of the flag-football game. “[Once] he understood the angles and separation required, he excelled as our

primary kick returner and running back,” Gibbs said.

This year’s championship game was a rematch from last year against 43rd Medical Group. 43rd CS won their first championship last year in a very close battle, 9-6.

“It was an amazing match-

up and it turned out to be an amazing game. [43rd Medical Group] have a lot of good athletes and had their chances to win both years,” said Gibbs. “Luckily we were able to make enough plays to come out victorious back-to-back.”

43rd CS was thrilled to win their second straight championship. After the game the team met at midfield for a group huddle and chant, yelling, ‘Who’s house? Comm’s house! Who’s house? Comm’s house!’

“It feels good. I wasn’t around for the first one, but it feels good to be around for the second one,” said Davis.

For the coach who has more than 15 years of flag-football experience, this victory is a memorable one.

“This team was special ... to keep the team together for two straight years, knowing you bettered 15 other teams who want what you have ... it’s just an incredible accomplishment that I’ll cherish for a very long time,” said Gibbs.

When referring to 43rd CS’s football team this year, a few phrases get thrown around — ‘perfection,’ ‘back-to-back,’ ‘champions.’ For them, looking ahead to next year there should be only one phrase on their minds, ‘three-peat.’

CAN YOU 'BEAT THE PROS?'

Week 15

Master Sgt. Brian Cerney
14th Air Support Operations Squadron



Jacksonville over Pittsburgh
NY Giants over Washington
New Orleans over Arizona
Seattle over Carolina
Tennessee over Kansas City

Each week during the professional football season, a senior member of wing leadership will pick the winners of five pre-selected games. Their picks will be published in the Carolina Flyer the Friday before the games are played. Pope Airmen, their family members and civilian employees will have a chance to match wits with the ‘pros’ each week. Just select your picks for the week and submit them before games kick off Sunday. Any submission received after the start of the first game on Sunday will not be accepted. Contestants should e-mail their picks to the Carolina Flyer in-box at carolina.flyer@pope.af.mil . The top five contestants each week who’ve correctly selected more winning games or those who tied with the ‘pro’ will be published in the following week’s paper. After the regular season, the 10 people with the best records, who have played a minimum of 10 weeks, will be entered into the playoffs to compete against each other for prizes.

Top Players for Week 14....

- Pro:** Lt. Col. Brian Jurkovic, three correct picks
■ 2nd Lt. Chris Hoyler, Staff Sgt. Jonathon LaDue, Tech. Sgt. Niihau Ramsey, Staff Sgt. Reuben Foster, Master Sgt. Sandy Bezue and Master Sgt. James Koch, four correct picks
■ Irvin Gourdine and Staff Sgt. Chad LeMaire, three correct picks.
■ Col. John McDonald, two correct picks

Hometown News Releases

keep your family in the loop

Call the *Carolina Flyer* at
394-4185 for more information.

FLYER EXTRA



Pope chapel

315 Ethridge Street
394-2677

Religious Services

For Bible Studies please call the chapel

■ **Traditional Service:** Sunday, 8 a.m.

■ **Contemporary Service:** Sunday, 11 a.m.

■ **Sunday School (all ages):** 9:30 a.m. Pope Elementary

■ **Lunch Study with Dr. Ralph Richardson:** Noon; second and fourth Thursday of every month.

■ **Catholic Services:** Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

■ **Daily Mass:** Monday through Thursday, 11:45 a.m.

■ **Reconciliation:** Sunday from 9 to 9:30 a.m. or by appointment.

■ **Choir Rehearsal:** Monday at 7 p.m.

■ **RCIA:** Thursday at 6 p.m.

■ **CCD:** December through May 11 a.m. at Pope Elementary School

Services offered at Fort Bragg

■ **Catholic service:** JFK Chapel, Ardennes Street, Saturday at 5 p.m.

■ **Muslim or Orthodox Christian services:** Contact the chaplains at Fort Bragg by calling 396-1121.

■ **Officers' Christian Fellowship:** Bible study on leadership, Wednesday at 6 a.m.

■ **Jewish services:** For services, call the Beth Israel Congregation Community Center on Morganton Road at 484-6462.

■ **Wiccan ceremonies:** The Watters Center on Fort Bragg holds an open circle Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

J.R. Rockers
☐ 394-ROCK
Closed and scheduled to reopen in May

Pope Club
☐ 394-2154
Monday - Friday: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

New York Pizza and Deli
☐ 394-NYPD
Monday - Thursday: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday: 4 to 10 p.m.
Sunday: 4 to 9 p.m.

Habanero Mexican Grill

☐ 394-4580
Breakfast: Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Lunch: Daily: 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Information, Tickets and Travel



☐ 394-4478
Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Library
☐ 394-2195
Monday - Thursday: 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Story Time theme: 10:30 a.m. "Snowman"
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wood Shop

☐ 394-5049
Tuesday - Thursday: 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

School Age Programs

☐ 394-2869
Monday - Friday: 6 a.m.

Auto Hobby Shop

☐ 394-2293
Tuesday - Thursday: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Community Center

☐ 394-2779
Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Youth Center

☐ 394-4512
Monday - Thursday: 2:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 2:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Bowling Center

☐ 394-2891
Monday: 11 a.m. to

9:30 p.m.
Tuesday - Thursday: 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Friday: 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Sunday: 1 to 7 p.m.

Willow Lakes Golf Course

☐ 394-GOLF
Friday and Saturday: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fitness Center

☐ 394-2671
Monday - Friday: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Holidays and family days: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Frame and Design Arts

☐ 394-4192
Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday and Thursday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



American Gangster

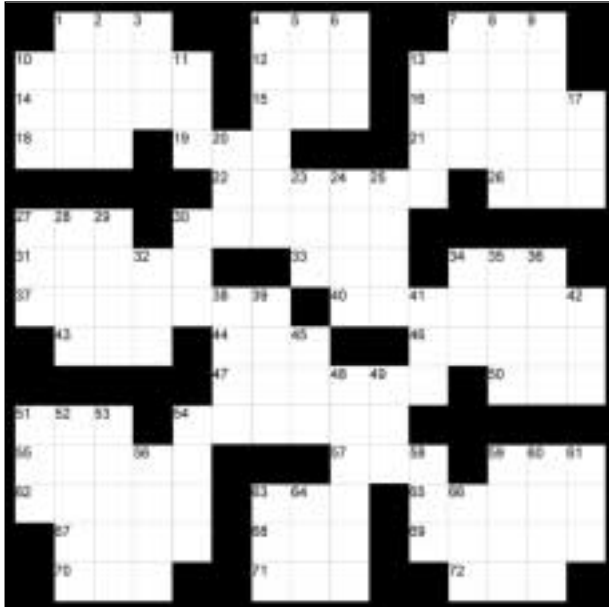


Why did I get Married

Crossword puzzle

Operating in the dark by Capt. Tony Wickman

71st Flying Training Wing Public Affairs



ACROSS

- Operation ___ Angel; 1991 humanitarian relief operation
- Immature newt
- Interjection of contempt, disdain, impatience
- Former Russian president Yeltsin
- Classical drama of Japan, with music and dance
- Routine; fixed, habitual, or mechanical course of procedure
- Operation __ Claw; 1980 failed op to free U.S. hostages in Iran
- Terminate
- Eat into or away
- Overseas mil. address
- Cap of Scottish origin, usually made of wool
- Operation Joint __; 1998-2004 peacekeeping op in former Yugoslavia
- Projections forming a shelf on a cliff or rock wall
- Singer Torme
- USAF deployment set
- Operation ___ Force; 1999 NATO operation in Yugoslavia republic
- General course or prevailing tendency; drift
- Restrain by force or authority from freedom of speech; silence
- Total Force component of the USAF
- Operation ___ Freedom; ongoing op against extremists
- Operation ___ Hope; 1992-93 U.N. humanitarian op in Somalia
- 157°30' east of due north, in brief
- Scarf or stole of feathers, fur, or fabric
- Give audible expression to; speak or pronounce
- Not sharp, acute, or pointed; blunt in form
- Female sheep
- Perform
- Operation ___ Shield; Coalition op to defend Middle East against Iraq
- Move to a higher position; lift up; elevate
- Place to work out
- Father
- ___ missile crisis (1962)
- US op since to defend American sovereign air space, in brief
- Operation ___ Freedom; ongoing op to depose

- Hussein, bring peace
- Sedimentary material consisting of very fine particles
- Fish appendage
- Pancake cover
- Let them ___ cake!
- Obese
- Seventh letter of the Greek alphabet

DOWN

- Cleansing agent
- Consequently; therefore
- Cause pain, uneasiness, or trouble to
- Various varnishes or paints dried to a hard, glossy finish
- Operation Desert __; 1998 air strike on Iraq
- Article
- Spanish bull
- Operation Desert __; 1991 war to remove Iraq forces from Kuwait
- To warp a vessel by means of a light anchor
- Golden Girl actress Arthur
- To place in a particular place or position
- Boxing officials
- Snakelike fish
- Everything
- To break up, turn over, or remove earth, sand, etc.
- Equipment
- Brink or verge
- Law enforcement and tax collection agency of Treasury Dept.
- Mistakes
- Charges for professional services
- Compute
- Formerly
- MCI competitor
- Short, informal letter
- Developed, multiplied, swelled, or enlarged
- Woodwind instrument
- Large disorderly crowds or throngs
- Litigate
- Before, poetically
- Dined
- Operation ___ Fury; 1983 operation to restore peace in Grenada
- Pig's pen
- Operation ___ Light; US B-52 bombing missions in Vietnam
- Operation Just __; 1989 op to capture Noriega, restore peace
- Leg bone
- Car damage
- NaCl on the table
- Calculate or classify leading; do it wrong or in error

Answers



Self-help center

Water testing: The self-help center has supplies to test water in the home.

Hours of operation: The self-help center is open Monday through Wednesday 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed Saturday and Sunday. They are located at 249 Boxcar Street.

Home repair supplies: The self-help store offers home repair supplies such as furnace filters, insecticides, herbicides and minor maintenance products at no cost to the housing occupant. The self-help store also offers landscaping and lawncare products for yard beautification. Call 394-2830 for inquiries.